



# Town of Simsbury

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SIMSBURY, CONNECTICUT 06070

## **ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY PROGRAMS**

2008



The Town of Simsbury has actively participated in a variety of programs that promote environmentally friendly practices in the community. Many of these programs are on-going, with new initiatives being considered.

In the following narrative, are descriptions of some of those programs.

### **HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION DAY**

Simsbury, in cooperation with neighboring towns, schedules an annual Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day that provides residents with a safe and convenient method to bring unwanted household hazardous materials for collection and proper disposal by a licensed contractor. This year's collection is on August 16, 2008 at the Henry James Junior High School parking lot, from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

As a regional service contracted through the Metropolitan District Commission (MDC), residents can also dispose of hazardous materials at any other MDC collection day scheduled between April and November.

An informative handout lists all collection days, and hazardous household materials and products that are collected. Of special note is that with the increased use of compact fluorescent light bulbs to save energy, a new recycling need emerges. Because these bulbs contain mercury, these bulbs are treated as hazardous waste and can be brought to the household hazardous waste collection day.

## ELECTRONICS RECYCLING

As a member town of the Connecticut Resources Recovery Authority's (CRRA) Mid-Connecticut Project, Simsbury residents can take advantage of this year's collection program for a wide range of electronic products.

A handout lists the collection days, and the electronic products that are collected.

## STORMWATER QUALITY

The Town actively participates in the federal EPA's Municipal Small Storm System (MS4) program, as administered by the Connecticut DEP. This multi-faceted program involves:

- Stormwater Monitoring
- Public Education
- System Mapping
- Storm System Maintenance

Educational brochures have been prepared to inform residents of the best practices regarding lawn care, auto care, pet waste and landscaping in order to eliminate adverse impacts on storm water runoff.

Annual sampling of representative storm drain outlets is conducted to identify pollution problems and to measure the effectiveness of control measures.

The Town vacuum cleans critical drainage system catch basins and siltation traps on an annual basis and the remaining 3500 catch basins on a 3 year cycle. All streets are swept during the months of April and May, with sweepings disposal of at an approved site.

## LAND USE EFFORTS

- Aquifer Protection Areas – Zoning regulations provide limitations on certain types of developments and regulate the use of underground petroleum tanks in aquifer recharge areas. The intent of these regulations is to protect existing and potential public water supply aquifers.
- Farmington Valley Biodiversity Study – In this regional study, Simsbury partnered with the Farmington Valley towns to identify areas of high biodiversity. The study recommended ways to protect the unique environments, which cross town boundaries that are home to diverse plant, animal and amphibious communities.
- Plan of Conservation and Development – The recently completed Plan of Conservation and Development identifies, and maps, important environmental resources, such as prime farmland, ridgelines, wetlands and floodplains, and presents strategies to protect these resources.

## TOWN BUILDING ENERGY ASSESSMENT

The Town has installed numerous energy savings equipment and operations into its buildings. Going forward, advances in design and cost effectiveness will provide opportunities to investigate and implement further savings programs.

- Window rehabilitation – With a number of historic buildings, conventional “storm windows” or window replacement was not always compatible with the character of the buildings. Retrofitting and rehabilitation of existing windows presents the option of improving energy efficiency and retaining the historic nature of the windows. These opportunities will be investigated for Eno Memorial Hall and the oldest sections of the Town Offices.

- LEED – Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design – LEED is the nationally accepted benchmark for the design, construction and operation of high performance green buildings. The recently approved architectural study for the construction, reconstruction and renovations to buildings at Simsbury Farms presents the opportunity to implement a LEED program. In addition to building materials and design considerations, the site may lend itself to generating power from fuel cells, wind turbines or solar panels.

#### WASTE WATER TREATMENT

Through funding by the Clean Water Fund, the Town, in partnership with Avon and Granby, completed renovation and expansion of the Waster Water Treatment facility on Drake Hill Road. This new facility provides numerous environmental quality improvements, as well as energy savings measures. The treatment process removes nitrates, which results in a reduction of algae blooms in Long Island Sound; and, utilizes ultraviolet light, instead of chlorine, to provide final disinfection. The discontinuance of chlorine is beneficial for the salmon fishery restoration in the Farmington River. Solid wastes from on-site septic systems are able to be treated at this facility. Energy savings variable frequency drives for motors, direct digital control (DDC) for heating and cooling, and occupancy sensors are all used at the facility. All operations are controlled by a Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system that reduces energy consumptions and provides for efficient adjustment to the treatment process.